

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03481 01 OF 03 051723Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-03 /083 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 901

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 3 MOSCOW 3481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AT THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. A SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS IS DESIGNED TO
PROJECT PAST SUCCESS AND CURRENT PROGRAM IN A SINGLE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03481 01 OF 03 051723Z

IMAGE, AND AT THE 25TH THIS ICONIC ELEMENT WAS AS PRO-

NONCED IN FOREIGN POLICY AS IT WAS IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IN A FRAMEWORK OF STABILITY AND CONTINUITY, AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF GROWING SOVIET POWER, "THE EMPEROR WITH GOLDEN FISTS" SAT IN JUDGMENT OF HIS WORKS, AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH THE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS OF A) CONSOLIDATION OF THE "SOCIALIST COMMUNITY," B) SUPPORT FOR "PROGRESSIVE" CHANGES IN THE THIRD WORLD, AND C) "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" WITH THE WEST AND JAPAN. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WAS PREEMINENT, BUT THE SOVIETS MADE CLEAR THAT FOR THEM IT DOES NOT IMPLY COMPROMISE ON OTHER ESSENTIALS, AND THE REAFFIRMED "DETENTE" COMMITMENT, THOUGH FIRMER AND DEEPER THAN IN 1971, IS ALSO COOLER AND NARROWER THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN 1973-74. THIS SHRINKAGE MAY HELP EXPLAIN THE HEIGHTENED STRESS ON THE COMMUNIST CAMP. CHINA WAS AT THE SAME TIME BOTH ABSENT FROM THE ICONOSTASIS AND OMNIPRESENT AT THE CONGRESS: BREZHNEV, THOUGH SHARP, WAS BRIEF, BUT THEREAFTER THE HALL WAS FILLED WITH ATTACKS ON THE CHINESE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE USSR AND THE GLOBE. NO PROBLEM IS MORE IMPORTANT OF MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOVIETS, BUT THE SHORT TERM SOLUTION IS A STIFF FOREIGN POLICY AND A MAOIST WHIPPING BOY. THE TRADITIONAL THIRD ICON, SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION, DID NOT GET MUCH SPACE, BUT IT WAS SHARPLY DISTINGUISHED FROM PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AND THIS SHARPNESS GAVE IT VERY BOLD RELIEF. FINALLY, THE CONGRESS SAW THE EMERGENCE AT FORMAL LEVEL OF THE NEW AND SERIOUS CHALLENGE OF ACCOMMODATING SOVIET PRIMACY IN EUROPEAN COMMUNISM TI ITS BURGEONING DIVERSITY.

2. THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, DEMONSTRATED SATISFACTION WITH ITS MANAGEMENT OF THE "OLD ISSUES": RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND THE COMMUNIST CAMP, CHANGE AND INFLUENCE IN THE THIRD WORLD. ON CHINA, THE SOVIETS PROBABLY FEEL THAT HAVE DONE WHAT LITTLE THEY COULD, AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS GIVE THEM NO CAUSE FOR DESPAIR. IN APPROACHING THE "NEW ISSUES" OF COMMUNIST AND THIRD WORLD DIVERSITY AND GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE THEY HAVE SHOWN PRUDENCE AND SOME SOPHISTICATION. NEVERTHELESS, BEHIND THE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY THREE BASIC DILEMMAS LOOM FOR THE SUPERPOWERS: FOR THE SOVIETS, HOW TO HANDLE EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS; FOR US, HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03481 01 OF 03 051723Z

AS LONG AS THEY INSIST ON SUPPORTING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS DEFINED BY THEMSELVES AND IDENTIFY THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR AS ALMOST THE ONLY MAJOR EXTERNAL CONSTRAINT ON THEIR BEHAVIOR; AND FOR US BOTH, HOW TO KEEP THE DOOR TO A MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP OPEN IN THE FACE OF SOVIET INABILITY TO APPRECIATE AMERICAN POLITICAL REALITIES, AND AS THE BOOK-KEEPERS' MENTALITY CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE SOVIET POLICY PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

3. EVEN MORE THAN MOST OTHER MANUFACTURED POLITICAL EVENTS, A SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS IS AN ICONOSTASIS. IT IS DESIGNED TO SUM UP WHERE THE "GREATEST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY", AS GEORGE KENNAN HAS CALLED THE CPSU, HAS COME AND WHERE IT WISHES AND INTENDS TO GO. TO THIS END THE LEADERSHIP FASHIONS A DISPLAY OF THE GOOD, THE TRUE AND THE BEAUTIFUL IN THEIR VARIOUS AVATARS. EVERYTHING WHICH TAKES PLACE IN PUBLIC --THE EVOCATION OF THE PAST, THE SELF-CONGRATUALTION OF THE PRESENT, THE ADUMBRATION OF THE FUTURE--TAKES PLACE AT THE LEVEL OF SYMBOL.

4. NOWHERE IS THIS MORE TRUE THAN IN FOREIGN POLICY. IN DOMESTIC TERMS, THE LEADERSHIP PRESENTED A NUMBER OF AVATARS AT THE 25TH CONGRESS: THE KNIGHT, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, THE TEACHER, EVEN (WHEN BREZHNEV INTERRUPTED OTHER SPEAKERS) THE MAN WITH THE COMMON TOUCH. THERE WERE ALSO MULTIPLE IMAGES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALL WERE GROUPED AROUND "THE EMPEROR WITH THE GOLDEN FISTS," IN VILLON'S PHRASE, SITTING IN JUDGMENT ON THE WORK OF HIS HANDS AND FINDING IT GOOD. NOT EVERYONE AT THE CONGRESS AGREED WITH THIS FINDING. THE EFFORT O EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS OF ALMOST EVERY STRIPE EITHER TO RETOUCH OR RESTORE THE "E PLURIBUS UNUM" SEAL INHERITED FROM THE PAST WAS CERTAINLY THE FOREIGN POLICY "EVENT" OF THE LAST FORTNIGHT. BUT THIS NOVEL ASPECT SHOULD BE SEEN AND JUDGED WITHIN THE OCONOSTASIS AS A WHOLE.

5. STABILITY AND CONTINUITY--THE WELL KNOWN "PRINCIPLED AND CONSISTENT" CHARACTER OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY-- PROVIDED THE FRAME. FIDENITY TO THE PAST, FIRMNESS IN THE PRESENT, FORTITUDE AND RESOLUTION (THE "OPTIMISM" CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 03481 01 OF 03 051723Z

OF BREZHNEV'S CONCLUDING REMARKS MARCH 1) FOR THE FUTURE : ALL WERE REPEATEDLY REAFFIRMED AT THE CONGRESS, AND THERE IS NO REASONE TO DOUBT THAT THE LEADERS AND THE BULK OF THE FOLLOWERS BELIEVE IN THEM, ARE PROUD OF THEM, AND INTEND TO MAINTAIN THEM. A "PRINCIPLED AND CONSISTENT" FOREIGN POLICY DOES NOT SIGNIFY ATTACHMENT TO THE STATUS QUO--FAR FROM IT--BUT IT DOES SIGNIFY A CAUTIOUS AND PRUDENT APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF CHANGING THE STATUS QUO TO SOVIET ADVANTAGE.

6. SOVIET POWER PROVIDED THE BACKGROUND. UNLIKE "PRINCIPLE" AND "CONSISTENCY," THERE WAS NO PUSHING OF SOVIET POWER A LA KHRUSHCHEV, NO SABER-RATTLING, AT THIS CONGRESS. STILL, SOVIET POWER WAS A CONSTANT PREOCCUPA- TION IN THE SPEECHES, A MIXTURE OF HEADY PRIDE AT THE

ADVANCES MADE SINCE THE REGIME BEGAN AND ESPECIALLY SINCE WORLD WAR 11, AND CONTINUING TROUBLED UNCRETAINTY THAT THERE IS REALLY ENOUGH OF IT TO PROTECT THE REGIME AT HOME AND ABORAD IN A "COMPLEX" WORLD STILL FULL OF ENEMIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS NO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHETHER IT IS GOOD TO BE POWERFUL, OR ABOUT THE GOALS WHICH SOVIET POWER OUGHT TO SERVE; SECURING AND ADVANCING THE "INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY" OF THE USSR AND ITS "SOCIALIST" ALLIES, AND ASSISTING "PROGRESSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS" IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE, AND MOVEMENT TOWARD "SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03481 02 OF 03 052030Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 EURE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 3 MOSCOW 3481

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7. IN THE FRAMEWORK OF "PRINCIPLE" AND "CONSISTENCY," AND
AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GROWING SOVIET POWER, THE LEADERSHIP
PUT FORWARD THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY TRIPTYCH:
THE CONSOLIDATION (AND EXTENSION) OF THE "WORLD SOCIALIST COMMUNITY"
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03481 02 OF 03 052030Z

AROUND THE USSR; SUPPORT FOR "PROGRESS" IN THE THIRD WORLD,
BEGINNING WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT; AND "PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE" WITH THE "CAPITALIST" WORLD.

8. WESTERN PRESS REPORTING NATUARLY HIGHLIGHTED THE ARTICULATION OF THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE ASPECT, WHICH COMES LAST IN THE TRADITIONAL SEQUENCE, BUT THIS STRESS IS NOT INACCURATE EVEN IN SOVIET TERMS. THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP IS PROUDEST OF THE CHANGES IT FEELS IT HAS WROUGHT IN RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, AND THE EMPHASIS ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE HAS MULTIPLE ADVANTAGES. MOST IMPORTANT, THE WESTERN BORDERS OF THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES IN EUROPE ARE SECURE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SOVIET HISTORY. FURTHER, THE ONE LIMIT ON SOVIET POWER WHICH THE KREMLIN RECOGNIZES WITHOUT RESERVATION IS THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND THIS GIVES A NATURAL PRIMACY TO ARMS CONTROL, ESPECIALLY WITH THE OTHER NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER, ACROSS THE RANGE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. THERE ARE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FRINGE BENEFITS AS WELL. SOVIET SPONSORSHIP OF ARMS CONTROL LOOKS GOOD TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, AND ACTIVE SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE WEST FILL SPACES ON THE INTERNATIONAL CHECKERBOARD WHICH THE CHINESE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO OCCUPY. DOMESTICALLY, RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WITH THE WEST HAS VISCERAL APPEAL IN A COUNTRY WHERE EXTERNAL TENSIONS AND INTERNAL REPRSSION HAVE BEEN INSEPARABLE FOR DECADES, AND IT KEEPS THE TWIN HOPES OF MORE BUTTER AND LESS GUNS, AND OF ACCESS TO WESTERN TECHNOLOGY (AND GRAIN), ALIVE IN THEIR UNCERTAIN HARNESS. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" HAS ASSURED PRE-EMINENCE IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, AND BREZHNEV REGISTERED IT AGAIN IN HIS FEBRUARY 24 REPORT.

9. AT THE SAME TIME, BREZHNEV WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT--AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER--THAT THE SOVIET VISION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, FOR ALL ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND WHATEVER COOPERATION CAN BE NEGOTIATED, DOES NOT EXTEND TO COMPROMISES ON THE ESSENTIALS. FOR THE SOVIETS, THESE ESSENTIALS CONTINUE TO INCLUDE THE COHESION OF THE COMMUNIST CAMP AROUND THE USSR, SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION IN THE THIRD WORLD, AND IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE WITH THE WEST. COMPARED WITH HIS 1971 CONGRESS

REPORT, BREZHNEV'S STATED ATTACHMENT TO A CONTINUED EFFORT TO PUT
RELATIONS WITH THE WEST ON A MORE STABLE BASIS IS CERTAINLY
FIRMER AND DEEPER THAN IT WAS. BUT COMPARED WITH LEADERSHIP
STATEMENTS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE USSR'S "DETENTE" AND SALT ITSELF
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03481 02 OF 03 052030Z

WERE FAILRLY WEAK SISTERS IN CONGRESS RHETORIC. PRUDENT
HESITATION TO HACK POSSIBLE LOSERS MAY HELP ACCOUNT FOR THIS
DIMINISHED ARDOR, AND A CERTAIN COOLING WAS PERHAPS NATURAL AND
EVEN HEALTHY AFTER THE INITIAL BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN MADE AND
REVERSES BEGAN TO JOIN THE TRIUMPHS ON THE LEDGER. LIKE
CHEMICALS IN A CRUCIBLE, A FOREIGN POLICY COMMITMENT CAN SHRINK
AS IT COOLS. WHATEVER THE REASON, THE CONGRESS REGISTERED SUCH
SHRINKAGE IN THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, EVEN
AS IT WAS BEING REAFFIRMED.

11. FOR THE SOVIETS, SHRINKAGE IN ONE AREA ALMOST INEVITABLY
AFFECTS THE SHAPE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY VISION IN ALL THE OTHERS,
SINCE THEY ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED. NO DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE BIRTH
OF THE SOVIET REGIME HAS CHANGED THE USSR'S POSITION IN THE WORLD
AND ITS VIEW OF THAT POSITION MORE THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
COMMUNISTS STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CHINA. FROM THE SOVIET
POINT OF VIEW, THERE ARE NO CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN "DETENTE",
CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMUNIST BLOC IN EASTERN EUROPE, HOSTILITY
TO CHINA AND SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION, MOVEMENT. ALL THAT
IS REQUIRED IS MORE OF THE SAME, PATIENT, EVEN LABORIOUS EFFORT
TO ADVANCE SOVIET OBJECTIVES PIECEMEAL ON ALL FOUR BOARDS. BUT
DIFFICULTIES IN ONE AREA CAN LEAD TO DIFFICULTIES IN OTHERS. WHAT
WAS SCARECELY VISIBLE AT THE HIGH LEVEL OF GENERALITY PROPER TO
CONGRESS DELIBERATIONS WAS THE UKERTAINITY OF THE "OBJECTIVES
CONDITIONS" ON THE GROUND. "DETENTE" IS IN TROUBLE IN WESTERN
GOVERNMENTS AND WESTERN PUBLIC OPINIONS. THE NARROWING ECONOMIC
OPTIONS OF THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH FACE RISING PRICES
FOR THE WESTERN GOODS THEY WANT AND THE SOVIET RAW MATERIALS THEY
NEED, COULD OVER TIME DRIVE DIVERSIFICATION TOWARD THE MARGINS OF
ALLIANCE COHESION. CHINESE DOMESTIC POLITICS ARE IN TURMOIL. AND
THE DIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD WORLD ARE BECOMING FACTORS IN INTER-
NATIONAL POLITICS AT A MOMENT WHEN THE LAST COLONIALISTS DEPART,
AND LEAVE A SERIES OF TINDERBOXES BEHIND THEM. ALL THESE
UNCERTAINTIES, WE THINK, WERE REFLECTED AT THE CONGRESS, BUT AS
THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY.

12. CHINA WAS IN A CURIOUS WAY BOTH ABSENT FROM THE ICON-
OSTASIS AND OMNIPRESNT. IT ENTERED BREZHNEV'S CC REPORT AT THE
TAIL END OF THE "SOCIALIST" SECTION DEFINED AS A "SEPARATE"
PROBLEM, NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL, NEITHER "SOCIALIST", THIRD WORLD,
"CAPITALIST," AND THE TREATMENT, WHILE SHARP, WAS VERY BRIEF.
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 03481 02 OF 03 052030Z

FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CONGRESS, HOWEVER, SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GLOBE FILED TO THE PODIUM TO ATTACK THE CHINESE, BOTH AS MAOISTS AND AS THE PRC. THE ATTACKS BY SOVIETS, AT LEAST, WERE OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY FELT, BUT UNIMPRESSIVE AS EITHER DOCTRINE OR FOREIGN POLICY FOR ANY-ONE BUT THE CONVERTED. NO PROBLEM IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS THAN CHINA, AND NONE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH OVER THE LONG TERM. FOR THE SHORT TERM, HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS HAVE CHOSEN A STIFF FOREIGN POLICY POSITION AND A MAOIST WHIPPING BOY, AND FOR THE CONGRESS THIS SUFFICED.

13. THE CONGRESS DID NOT GIVE EXCEPTIONAL SPACE TO SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CHANGE IN THE THIRD WORLD, BUT HIS ICON WAS PAINTED WITH EXTREME CLARITY, EVEN SHARPNESS. THE FOCAL POINT WAS NOT SOUTH VIETNAM, WHICH WAS WELCOMED INTO THE "SOCIALIST COMMUNITY" WITH SOMEWHAT UNDERSTATED MODERATION, BUT ANGOLA, AND THE FELT NEED TO MAKE A RADICAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03481 03 OF 03 051822Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 3 OF 3 MOSCOW 3481

WEST AND COMPETITION IN THE THIRD WORLD. SEPARATING THESE TWO FACETS OF SOVIET POLICY SO SHARPLY HAD THE EFFECT OF MAKING NATIONAL LIBERATION STAND OUT IN BOLD RELIEF. LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE AT THE CONGRESS, THE LEVEL WASY SYMBOLIC, AND THE EFFECT MAY BE PARTLY OPTICAL. CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE UNWARRANTED TO READ OUT OF THESE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03481 03 OF 03 051822Z

PROCEEDINGS A SIGNAL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT RUSH INTO NAMIBIA, DJIBOUTI OR THE SAHARA.

14. FINALLY, THE CONGRESS REGISTERED THE EMERGENCE AT THE FORMAL LEVEL OF AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ISSUE IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY: RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS IN AN ERA OF LESSENING EAST-WEST TENTIONS. IT AFFECTS "THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY," "NATIONAL LIBERATION" AND "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CONDITIONS, AND FITS EASILY IN NONE OF THESE TRADITIONAL CATEGORIES. THE CONGRESS SHOWED THAT THE EOSIETS RECOGNIZE THEY HAVE A PROBLEM; IT DID NOT SHOW THAT THEY INTEND TO DO WITH IT EITHER FORMALLY OR PRACTICALLY. FORMALLY, THE LONG CONCLUDING SECTIONS OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH ON THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT WERE OBVIOUSLY TACKED ON LIKE AN APPENDIX. THE PRIMARY SOVIET REACTION TO THE RAMPANT DIVERSITY OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST SPEAKERS AT THE CONGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO PROJECT IMAGES -- OF BREZHNEV, SUSLOV AND PONOMAREV WITH CUNHAL AND BERLINGUER--AND OF THE CPSU LEADERSHIP WITH RULING-PARTY DELEGATION HEADS FROM CUBA THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE AND YUGOSLAVIA TO NORTH VIETNAM WOULD EMBRACE THEM ALL. PRACTICALLY, SOVIET DONDUCT IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE OVER THE NEXT MONTHS WILL PROVIDE THE BEST INDICATORS OF HOW THEY INTENT TO APPROACH WHAT IS CLEARLY A MAJOR ISSUE--IF NOT A NEW CHAPTER--IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY.

AS A SOVIET CONTACT WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOREIGN POLICY REPORT PUT IT SARDONICALLY, "POLITICS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS IN SUCH A LARGE HALL," AND EUROPEAN COMMUNISM WAS AN EVENT BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WERE OBLIGED TO HEAR IT DISCUSSED DESPITE THEIR PREFERENCES. JUST AS CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS WAS NOT THE PLACE TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS.

15. ON BALANCE, THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP APPEARS SATISFIED WITH ITS STEWARDSHIP OF THE "OLD ISSUES:" SECURING AND INCREASING SOVIET POWER IN THE WORLD, DEVELOPING MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR, KEEPING THE COMMUNIST CAMP TOGETHER AND RUNNING, FENDING OFF THE CHINESE,

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03481 03 OF 03 051822Z

PROMOTING CHANGE (AND SOVIET INFLUENCE) IN THE THIRD WORLD. IN RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, IT CAN POINT TO A COMMENDABLE RECORD OF GRAIN AT ACCEPTABLE COST, AND TO THE HOPE FOR MORE. IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIET ALLIES, IT CAN POINT TO REAL CONSOLIDATION, AT THE COST OF SOME DIVERSIFICATION AND SOME EVOLUTION TOWARD A GENUINE ALLIANCE SYSTEM. IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA, THE LEADERSHIP PROBABLY FEELS IT HAS DONE WHAT LITTLE IT COULD DO. IF IT IS NOT SATISFIED, IT CAN STILL TAKE COMFORT FROM THE PERCEPTION THAT THE CHINESE, HAVING EMERGED FROM ISOLATION, ARE NOW IN RETREAT ABROAD AND ON SKAKY GROUND AT HOME, AND THAT THE USSR IS SCORING POINTS IN THE PROCESS, MOST STRIKINGLY IN VIETNAM. IN THE THIRD WORLD, THE EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE ON THE SIDE OF HISTORY MUST BE POSITIVELY GRATIFYING TO SOVIET LEADERS AT THIS POINT. WITH REGARD TO ALL THESE TRADITIONAL PREOCCUPATIONS, THEREFORE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE LEADERSHIP FINDS NO CAUSE FOR APOLOGY, AND MUCH CAUSE FOR PRIDE AND HOPE, AT WHAT SHOULD BE ITS LAST CONGRESS.

16. EVEN WITH REGARD TO "NEW ISSUES"--THE DIVERSIFICATION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISM, THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE THIRD WORLD, THE CHALLENGES OF FUNCTIONAL INTER-DEPENDENCE--THE SOVIETS HAVE NO REASON TO BE DISCONSOLATE. THEIR APPROACH HAS COMBINED PRUDENCE WITH CONSIDERABLE SOPHISTICATION. THEIR HANDLING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AT THE CONGRESS, WHILE SCARCELY MASTERFUL, WAS NOT CLUMSY EITHER: IT ALIENATED NO ONE, AND LEFT ALL THE DOORS OPEN.

17. NEVERTHELESS, THREE MAJOR DILEMMAS LOOM UP BEHIND THE IMAGE OF STABILITY AND CONTINUITY IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY FASHIONED IN MOSCOW: ONE FOR THE SOVIETS, ONE FOR THE WEST, AND ONE FOR US BOTH.

-- THE ONLY DILEMMA THE SOVIETS CLEARLY RECOGNIZE
IS HOW TO PRESERVE THEIR LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST
MOVEMENT IN EUROPE WHILE ACCOMMODATING THEMSELVES TO
THE CLEAR DIVERSITY WITHIN IT PROVOKED BY THE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF MAJOR EUROPEAN PARTIES. THIS
IS AN OLD PROBLEM IN EASTERN EUROPE, BUT THERE A KIND
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 03481 03 OF 03 051822Z

OF OPERATIVE MODUS VIVENDI HAS BEEN WORKED OUT OVER
TIME. IT IS A NEW AND SEARING PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN
EUROPE, WHERE NO SUCH CLUSTER OF HABITS EXISTS. WORKING
ONE OUT WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED (INCLUDING WESTERN
GOVERNMENTS) IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE.

-- THE DILEMMA FOR US IS HOW TO MAINTAIN WESTERN
SUPPORT FOR RELAXATION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS AND FOR A
REALISTIC APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION
WHEN THE SOVIETS INSIST ON THEIR OWN DEFINITION OF WHAT
IS POSSIBLE AND IN THEIR INTERESTS, AND WHEN THE ONLY MAJOR
CONSTRAINT ON THEIR SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
CHANGE OUTSIDE THE COMMUNIST CAMP SEEMS TO BE THE RISK OF
NUCLEAR WAR. THE DILEMMA IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT
THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS A DILEMMA.
THIS IS A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM, AND EXISTS ALSO IN EUROPE,
BUT IT IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE THIRD WORLD, WHERE
THE SOVIETS ARE LESS EXPERIENCED, WHERE THE OBJECTIVE
CONSTRAINTS ARE FEWER, AND WHERE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE
(OFTEN WRAPPED AROUND THE CHINA AXLE OF SOVIET POLICY)
ARE THEREFORE MORE COMPELLING FOR THEM.

-- THE DILEMMA FOR US BOTH (EAST AND WEST, AND THE
U.S. AND USSR IN PARTICULAR) IS HOW TO MAINTAIN ENOUGH
MOMENTUM IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING A MORE STABLE
BASIS FOR RELATIONS TO KEEP IT GOING AT ALL, AT A
MOMENT WHEN THE SOVIETS, LIKE US, ARE BECOMING MORE
SOBER AND CAUTIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIATING, AND WHEN THE
KOOKKEEPERS' MENTALITY SO PREVAILANT IN GIANT BUREAU-
CRACIES CONSEQUENTLY THREATENS TO ENGULF US BOTH.
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Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
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Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Film Number: D760085-0078
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